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## **CALFED Director Patrick Wright reassigned to Resources Agency Joe Grindstaff named as CALFED acting director**

Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman today announced that Bay Delta Authority Director Patrick Wright will become assistant secretary for program development at the Resources Agency. Joe Grindstaff, chief deputy director for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), will replace Wright as acting director. The transition is effective immediately.

As Director of the Authority, Wright was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the largest and most comprehensive water management and ecosystem restoration effort in the nation.

"Patrick played a key role in building the CALFED program and through a variety of roles, at both state and federal levels, in leading it through one of the most difficult transitions it has faced," said Chrisman. "We appreciate his tireless dedication and selfless service during the last decade in support of the program intended to reinforce the best attributes of government."

In his new position, Wright will report directly to Chrisman.

Grindstaff, 52, joins CALFED after nearly a year at the Department of Water Resources. "Joe has a special talent for helping government agencies and the public find common ground and implement mutually beneficial projects and programs," Chrisman said. "The CALFED program continues to play an important role in meeting California's future water needs. We remain firmly committed to its goals and objectives to resolve conflict in the Delta through a balanced approach to improving water supply and enhancing our natural environment."

Grindstaff will be responsible for completing actions called for in the Governor's May budget revision. They are:

- Facilitate an independent program and fiscal review of CALFED to ensure accountability, highlight accomplishments, determine program status, and guide adjustments;
- Re-focus the efforts of the California Bay-Delta Authority and the other CALFED state agencies in solving conflicts with Delta water supply, water quality, levee stability, and the environment; and
- Develop a 10-year action plan, to be created in coordination with stakeholders and CALFED's federal partners. The action plan must focus on solving the highest priority Delta issues and link future water user payments to specific program actions.

Prior to serving as DWR's chief deputy director, Grindstaff led an effort that enabled the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) to become a model for regional coordination in improved water supply reliability, water quality, and ecosystem enhancement. SAWPA covers an area of more than 2,650 square miles in parts of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange counties and is home to more than five million people.

Before assuming his role at SAWPA, Grindstaff spent 25 years in the water resources industry. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.